

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /146 W

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P R 050904Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 439

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6772

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT KS

SUBJECT: SNU STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF SEOUL 6726

1. DISPOSITION OF STUDENTS ARRESTED OCT 2 WAS REPORTED BY TONGA ILBO OCT 5 AS FOLLOWS: TWELVE FORMALLY INDICTED; EIGHTEEN STILL BEING INVESTIGATED; 57 SENTENCED BY SUMMARY COURT TO 25 DAYS IN JAIL; AND 93 RELEASED. THIS REPORT WAS CENSORED AND IN LATER EDITIONS BLANK SPACE APPEARED IN ITS PLACE. STORY WAS NOT CARRIED BY OTHER PRESS OR MEDIA.

2. WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT 250 STUDENTS AT COMMERCE COLLEGE OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) STAGED RALLY ON CAMPUS OCT 5 AND RESOLVED TO BOYCOTT CLASSES FOR TEN DAYS DEMANDING RESTORATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENTS. ABOUT FOUR PARTICIPANTS WERE REPORTED ARRESTED. PRESS SOURCE INFORMED USIS THERE WAS ALSO A "SMALL" DEMONSTRATION AT SNU TEACHERS COLLEGE OCT 5.

3. AFTER DELIBERATION, GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PERMIT
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TRADITIONAL ANNUAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION BETWEEN

YONSEI AND DOREA UNIVERSITIES OCT 5 AND 6. HOWEVER, A STREET PARADE PLANNED BEFORE THE GAMES WAS CANCELLED. DURING OCT 5 BASEBALL GAME A SMALL FIRE BROKE OUT IN STADIUM AND SOME STUDENTS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED. STUDENTS EXTINGUISHED FIRE AND GAME WENT ON. RADION NEWS REPORTED FIRE HAD NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

4. OCT 5 TONGA ILBO REPORTED THAT OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD INSTRUCTED ITS "HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION COMMITTEE" TO FIND OUT WHETHER STUDENTS HAD BEEN TREATED CRUELLY OR HAD THEIR RIGHTS VIOLATED IN CONNECTION WITH "RECENT SITUATION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES".

5. EXCEPT FOR TONGA REPORT CITED PARA 1 AND OBLIQUE REFERENCES SUCH AS TO "SITUATION ON CAMPUSES" NEWS BLACKOUT CONTINUES.

6. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING ITS PUBLIC POSTURE OF TREATING DEMONSTRATIONS AS "NON-EVENTS". AT SAME TIME, IT IS ATTEMPTING TO USE POLICE TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH EACH DEMONSTRATION AS IT OCCURS WITHOUT GENERATING MORE UNTOWARD REACTION THAN IS NECESSARY.

7. BOTH FACULTY AND STUDENT LEADERS AT UNIVERSITIES ARE UNDER CONTINUING GOVERNMENT PRESSURE TO KEEP ORDER ON THE CAMPUSES. ROK CIA AND POLICE HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED BY CONTINUING SNU DEMONSTRATIONS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO RE-ESTABLISH THEIR INTELLIGENCE LINES INTO THE UNIVERSITIES.
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